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Tracy Unified looks to limit summer classes

by Jaclyn Hirsch

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The Tracy Unified School District school board will vote Tuesday night to cut most of the summer classes offered to students in the district.

The proposed cuts limit the summer classes offered in the district to mostly special education courses for students in pre-kindergarten through high school, which will be paid for with state money. The district would also offer high school seniors the chance to make up any credits needed to graduate with summer courses at the Tracy Adult School.

The special education classes would be four and five-week sessions, depending on the grade levels. The classes at the Adult School would run for six weeks.

If approved, the school could also team up with San Joaquin County to offer classes to migrant students, or students in kindergarten-through-eighth-grade that do not stay in the district for the entire school year.

In past years, Tracy has offered summer classes for students to get ahead and make up classes, either because they failed the course or just want to further their education.

Instead of offering these classes, the proposal to the school board recommends that students in grades 8 through 12 who are interested in taking summer courses enroll in online classes at state or junior colleges. The student, or parent, is responsible for the cost of these online classes and must get approval from the school principal and school counselor in order to receive high school credit.

Tracy offered 54 summer school classes last year, including special education classes. The number of classes that will be offered this year is unknown, and it's unclear how much money the district will save with fewer summer classes.

The school board will also discuss other ways to save money during the public meeting Tuesday night, which includes possibly offering retirement incentives to employees who have worked in the district for more than five years and switching district employee's cell phone carrier from AT&T to Sprint.

The meeting Tuesday night will begin at 7 p.m. at the District Education Center, 1875 West Lowell Ave.

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